

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-4 (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) A method for storing sets of signals in a compressed format in at least one memory device from sets of signals previously recorded in an uncompressed format and stored in another memory device, comprising:

~~storing-transferring one or more uncompressed format~~ sets of signals previously recorded in an uncompressed format and stored in a first memory device in an uncompressed format to a second memory device where the set of signals is stored in an uncompressed format;

compressing each ~~uncompressed format~~ set of signals transferred to the second memory device in an uncompressed format into a set of signals in a compressed format, in the second memory device; and

storing each ~~compressed format~~ set of signals compressed into a compressed format in the second memory device or in another memory device.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 comprising making available, for future storage, memory space in the second memory device in which a the set of uncompressed format signals is transferred to the second memory device in an uncompressed format was stored, after that set of signals has been compressed.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 comprising retrieving ~~each uncompressed format set of signals~~ from the second memory device each set of signals transferred in an uncompressed format for compression after at least only a substantial part of the respective set of signals has been stored therein transferred to the second memory device.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein ~~the storing in the second memory in an uncompressed format the sets of signals transferred to the second memory device in an uncompressed format~~ and the storing each ~~compressed format~~ set of signals in a

compressed format comprise storing ~~the~~ respective sets of signals in an uncompressed format and in a compressed format in different parts of the same memory device.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein ~~the~~ storing in the second memory in an uncompressed format the sets of signals transferred to the second memory device in an uncompressed format and the storing each ~~compressed format~~ set of signals in a compressed format comprise storing the respective sets of signals in an uncompressed format and in a compressed format in a computer readable disc.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein ~~the~~ storing in the second memory in an uncompressed format the sets of signals transferred to the second memory device in an uncompressed format and the storing each ~~compressed format~~ set of signals in a compressed format comprise storing the respective sets of signals in an uncompressed format and in a compressed format in different memory devices.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein ~~the~~ storing in the second memory in an uncompressed format the sets of signals transferred to the second memory device in an uncompressed format comprises storing each ~~uncompressed format~~ set of signals in an uncompressed format in a computer readable electronic memory, and

the storing each ~~compressed format~~ set of signals in a compressed format comprises storing each ~~compressed format~~ set of signals in a compressed format in a computer readable hard disc.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein ~~the storing uncompressed format sets of signals~~ comprises storing ~~one or more uncompressed format sets of digital signals, and wherein~~ the compressing comprises compressing according the sets of signals to MP3 format.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein ~~the storing~~ sets of signals and the compressing each set of stored signals comprise storing and the compressing sets of signals representing represent audio.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein ~~the storing sets of signals and the compressing each set of stored signals comprise storing and the compressing sets of signals representing~~ represent segments of audio.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein ~~the storing in the second memory in an uncompressed format the sets of signals transferred to the second memory device in an uncompressed format~~ comprises storing more than one set of signals in an uncompressed format ~~signals~~ in the second memory device, and ~~wherein the compressing each set of signals comprises retrieving one set of signals in an uncompressed format at a time from the second memory device and compressing one set of signals in a compressed format at a time.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein ~~the storing in the second memory in an uncompressed format the sets of signals transferred to the second memory device in an uncompressed format and the storing each compressed format set of signals in a compressed format~~ comprise storing ~~the~~ respective sets of signals in different parts of the same memory device, and ~~comprising making available, for future storage, memory space in the same memory device in which a set of uncompressed format signals is in an uncompressed format was stored, after that set of signals has been compressed.~~

17. (Currently Amended) A method for storing sets of previously recorded digital signals in a compressed format in a computer readable disc storage device, each set representing a segment of audio, comprising:

~~storing transferring~~ one or more sets of digital signals previously recorded in an uncompressed format ~~in from a first storage device to a second storage device where the set of digital signals is stored in an uncompressed format;~~

~~retrieving an uncompressed~~ a set of digital signals in an uncompressed format from the second storage device;

~~compressing the retrieved uncompressed format set of digital signals in an uncompressed format that is retrieved into a compressed format;~~

storing the ~~compressed format~~ set of digital signals compressed into a compressed format in the second storage device; and

making available, for future storage, space in the second storage device in which the ~~transferred set of digital signals in an uncompressed format signals is was~~ stored, after that set of digital signals has been compressed into a compressed format.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the retrieving ~~each a set of digital signals in an uncompressed format set of signals~~ from the second memory device for compression comprises retrieving the set of digital signals after only a part of the set of digital signals has been ~~stored in~~ transferred to the second storage device.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the compressing comprises compressing ~~according~~ the set of digital signals to MP3 format.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the ~~storing~~ transferring sets of digital signal in an uncompressed format sets of signals comprises storing more than one set of ~~uncompressed format~~ digital signals in an uncompressed format in the second storage device, and

~~wherein the retrieving each uncompressed format set of digital signals in an uncompressed format~~ and compressing each set of ~~retrieved~~ digital signals retrieved comprises retrieving one set of digital signals in an uncompressed format at a time and compressing one set of digital signals into a compressed format at a time.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~17~~ 20 wherein the compressing comprises compressing the sets of digital signals ~~according~~ to MP3 format.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for storing previously recorded sets of digital signals audio tracks in a compressed format in at least one memory device, ~~each set of compressed format digital signals representing an audio segment,~~ and for later retrieving the set of ~~the stored~~ audio tracks in a compressed format digital signals, and for converting the set of audio tracks in a compressed format digital signals into a set of signals in an

~~uncompressed format signals~~ suitable to be played to sound the respective audio ~~segment~~
tracks, the method comprising:

~~storing-transferring one or more-uncompressed-format sets of signals in the audio~~
tracks in an uncompressed format from a first storage device to a second storage device,
without compression, where the set of audio tracks is stored in an uncompressed format;

~~compressing-an-uncompressed-format the set of stored-digital-signals audio tracks~~
transferred to the second storage device in an uncompressed format into a compressed format,
in the second storage device;

~~storing the-compressed-format set of signals~~ audio tracks in a compressed format in
the second storage device; and

upon receiving a request for an audio track to be played, retrieving the set of audio
tracks in the compressed format and decompressing the set of audio tracks retrieved into
signals in an uncompressed format suitable to be played to sound the audio track, wherein
the compressing and the decompressing are performed according to a predetermined priority,
including only compressing the set of audio tracks when there is no pending request for an
audio track to be played, and not-at-the-same-time compressing and decompressing
simultaneously.

Claim 23 (Cancelled).

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22 comprising retrieving respective
~~uncompressed-format sets of stored-digital-signals~~ audio tracks in a compressed format only
after the respective ~~entire~~ set of audio tracks in an uncompressed format-set has been ~~stored in~~
completely transferred to the second storage device, and wherein the compressing comprises
~~compressing-the-retrieved-uncompressed-format each set of-digital-signals~~ audio tracks in an
uncompressed format that is retrieved.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 wherein the retrieving each
~~uncompressed-format set of signals~~ audio tracks in an uncompressed format from the-memory
second storage device for compression comprises retrieving the-uncompressed-format set of
audio tracks in an uncompressed format after only a part of the set of audio tracks has been
~~stored in~~ transferred to the second storage device.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22 wherein the compressing comprises compressing ~~according to~~ the set of audio tracks to MP3 format.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 wherein ~~the storing uncompressed format~~ transferring sets of signals audio tracks in an uncompressed format comprises storing more than one ~~uncompressed format~~ set of signals audio tracks in an uncompressed format in the second storage device, and ~~wherein the retrieving each~~ sets of audio tracks in an uncompressed format ~~set of signals~~ and the compressing each ~~uncompressed format~~ set of audio tracks in an uncompressed format that is retrieved signals comprises retrieving one ~~uncompressed format~~ set of signals audio tracks in an uncompressed format at a time and compressing one ~~uncompressed format~~ set of signals audio tracks into an uncompressed format at a time.

28. (Currently Amended) A system for receiving sets of signals in an uncompressed format stored on a removable storage device, converting the sets of signals in an uncompressed format ~~sets~~ to sets of digital signals in a compressed format, and storing the ~~compressed~~ sets of digital signals in a compressed format in at least one memory device, each respective set of signals in an uncompressed format and each set of digital signals in a compressed format ~~set of signals~~ representing a respective audio segment, the system comprising:

one or more memory devices;

an input for connecting a removable storage device and reading from the removable storage device;

a processor coupled to the memory device and the input, the processor being programmed to:

store in the memory device a set of signals in an uncompressed format ~~a set of signals~~ input to the processor from the input,

~~retrieve an uncompressed format~~ a set of signals in an uncompressed format after ~~at least only a substantial~~ only a substantial part of the set of signals in an uncompressed format is stored in the memory device,

~~convert the retrieved uncompressed format set of signals to in an~~
uncompressed format that is retrieved into a compressed format set of digital signals in a
compressed format,

~~store the compressed format set of digital signals in a compressed format in~~
the memory device or in another memory device, and

make available, for future storage, memory space in the memory device in
which the ~~uncompressed format set of signals are in an uncompressed format were stored,~~
after that set of signals in an uncompressed format has been converted to the ~~uncompressed~~
set of digital signals in a compressed format.

29. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 28 wherein the processor is
programmed to retrieve a ~~compressed format set of digital signals in a compressed format~~
stored in the memory device, and to convert the retrieved set of digital signals in a
compressed format set of signals to that is retrieved into an uncompressed format suitable to
be played to sound ~~the~~ a corresponding audio segment.

30. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 29 wherein the ~~programming assigns~~
~~a priority~~ processor is programmed to assign priorities to converting an ~~uncompressed format~~
a set of signals to in an uncompressed format into a converted compressed format and to
converting a ~~compressed format set of digital signals to in a compressed format into an~~
uncompressed format suitable to be played to sound ~~the~~ a corresponding audio segment.

31. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30 wherein the ~~programming provides~~
processor is programmed to give priority to converting a compressed format set of digital
signals to in a compressed format into a set of signals in an uncompressed format set of
~~signals.~~

32. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 28 wherein the ~~process~~ processor
comprises a programmed digital signal processor.

33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 28 wherein the ~~process~~ processor
comprises a programmed digital signal processor and a programmed controller.

34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 28 wherein the memory device comprises a computer readable disk, and ~~wherein the programming causes~~ processor is programmed to store both sets of signals in an uncompressed format and sets of digital signals in a compressed format ~~sets of signals to be stored~~ on the disk.

Claims 35-60 (Cancelled).

61. (Currently amended) A method of fast archiving of audio signals in a media center comprising a memory device ~~under control of, an input for connecting a removable storage device and reading from the removable storage device, and~~ a processor coupled to the memory and the input, the method comprising:

~~storing under control of the processor, transferring to the memory device, from a removable storage device coupled with the input, a set of audio signals representing an audio segment in the memory device,~~ without conversion of the set of audio signals to a compressed format; and

when the processor is not controlling accessing of an audio segment stored in the memory device, retrieving a set of the audio signals ~~that were not~~ transferred to the memory device without conversion to a compressed format, converting the ~~retrieved set to~~ of audio signals retrieved into a compressed format set, and storing the compressed format set in the memory device.

62. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 61 wherein converting the ~~uncompressed~~ set of audio signals retrieved comprises converting at a rate in ~~the general~~ a range of from one to two times real time.

63. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 62 wherein ~~converting the processor~~ comprises ~~converting using~~ a digital signal processor.

64. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 61 comprising erasing ~~an uncompressed format~~ from the memory device the set of audio signals from transferred to the

memory device without conversion to a compressed format, after ~~that set has been converted~~
conversion to the compressed format set, and storing the compressed format ~~stored~~ set in the
memory device.